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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*PROTONOTARIA CITREOLA*) BRINGING  
FOOD TO YOUNG

Photographed in Johnson County, Iowa, by Tom and Fred W. Kent, June 13, 1957  
(from an original color stereo)

## INTRODUCTION

This issue of IOWA BIRD LIFE commemorates the 30th year of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club. Founded in 1929, the Club has developed and maintained a rather remarkable record for high quality programs and other contributions to the study of local birds. To do this for three decades is no small achievement. This record has obviously been made possible by many devoted, talented individuals who gave liberal support. Several of them have been loyal members throughout all, or nearly all, these 30 years.

The Cedar Rapids Bird Club has, over the years, maintained a healthy balance between the popular and more technical aspects of bird study. On the one hand it has long sponsored the Audubon Screen Tours. These popular programs reach largely an audience of children and adults whose goal is popular enjoyment, with a wholesome and potentially awakening interest in the world of nature. Field trips are sponsored by the Club both for popular interest in birds and the more serious objective of compiling reliable ornithological data. Many of the Club programs have been given by careful students on rather technical topics. The happy availability of high school and college teachers has helped to make this possible. Some programs, such as those featuring the paintings by Mr. Steffen and the photography by Mr. Kent and Dr. Vane, combine superb artistic skill with technical knowledge. Thus the range of programs meets broad educational and interest needs.

At a meeting of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club early this year it was decided to assume financial and other responsibilities for this Anniversary Issue. The writer wishes to thank both the Club for its cooperation and the various members who have contributed articles. In particular we are indebted to Messrs. Tom and Fred Kent and Dr. Robert Vane for providing and financing the frontispiece. Miss Myra Willis and Miss Lillian Serbousek gave unsparingly of their time for planning the issue. As usual, the Editor of Iowa Bird Life, Fred J. Pierce, gave his full cooperation.

— J. HAROLD ENNIS  
Club President, 1957-59

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### A LETTER FROM AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB

Greetings to my Iowa Friends:

I am very happy for this opportunity to congratulate the Cedar Rapids Bird Club for its vital role during the past years. I am sure that it will continue to be a great influence in the future, for a group of such enthusiastic and devoted members cannot fail.

Since leaving Cedar Rapids several years ago, I have met many birders in the Chicago area, but my fondest memories of birding are still with my Iowa friends and the many congenial and pleasant hours spent with them.

Field work in a great metropolitan area has its disadvantages. One by one favorite spots are being taken over for subdivisions and industrial sites. I often wish I could return to some of the favorable areas in my native state where the tall corn grows. Best wishes to all.

WARREN N. KECK  
Department of Biology  
North Central College  
Naperville, Illinois



LILY LAKE AT THE AMANAS — Photograph by Fred W. Kent

## BIRDING AREAS OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB

By Robert F. Vane  
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The following notes, based on 20 years of membership and birding with the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, may be of interest, particularly with the many changes occurring in this area due to pressures of population and industry. The Cedar Rapids Bird Club has always been an active club not limited to armchair ornithologists, and in their monthly field trips club members have visited many areas.

For convenience and clarity in this paper we shall divide the birding areas into two categories: Local birding areas within the city; and secondly, favorite outlying areas.

### BIRDING AREAS WITHIN THE CITY

Cedar Rapids is divided roughly from north to south by the Cedar River. Close by the river in northeast Cedar Rapids is Cedar Lake, a body of water fed in large measure by McLeod Springs. Inasmuch as the water is continually used in the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company plant on the shore of the lake and returned to the lake at a higher temperature, the lake does not freeze in the winter and provides an area for hundreds of wintering ducks of several species. Gulls, terns and some shore birds are also found in season.

At the north edge of Cedar Lake is a wooded area which formerly produced a large number of species including nesting Woodcock (1941) within the city of Cedar Rapids. Now, however, industry has encroached on the area, the McLeod Springs channel has been straightened, and a large land fill covers a great share of the area.

Continuing with the east side of Cedar Rapids: Shaver Park, a wooded area and the area north along the Rock Island tracks are frequently visited by birders. Bever Park and the Indian Creek section immediately adjacent are also productive areas.

Mention should be made of the Mound Farm area. Prior to World War II this area, which was continuous with Mt. Mercy College in northeast Cedar Rapids, was an excellent birding area. Undisturbed prairie existed right within the city along with mixed woodland blending into a climax hardwood forest which provided a variety of habitat. A tiny stream wandered across the prairie which was covered with native flowers such as shooting stars, blue-eyed grass and yellow star grass. Later in the season *Liatris*, Turks-cap lily and bottled gentian were abundant. Along the edge of the prairie a covey of Quail flourished, Barred Owls and Red-shouldered Hawks nested in the area, and during migration warblers filled the trees, each flowering hawthorn being alive with fluttering, darting warblers.

Unfortunately this area for birding exists no more. Bulldozers and housing developments at the conclusion of World War II took the area over despite a few appeals from conservation and park interests. As in the case of Cedar Lake which also could have been a wonderful park site, Cedar Rapids lost another unique area.

On the west side of Cedar Rapids, Ellis Park with its woodland and shrubbery has been a birding area, and in earlier years Red-shouldered Hawks nested over a small stream in the park. North along the river were Manhattan Island in the Cedar, reached by a causeway, and Robbins Lake. Manhattan Island covered by bottomland timber was good birding at times, one of the interesting records from there being Myrtle Warblers on a Christmas census. Manhattan Island too has now been changed with the cutting

of timber, the dredging for a boat harbor to accommodate the boom in boating, and the provision of ice-skating rinks with warming shelters in winter.

Riverside Park continues to provide a first-class view of wintering ducks on the Cedar where the ducks stay in open water near a discharge from the local Penick & Ford corn-products plant. Many hundreds may be seen there.

"C" Street Woods at the outlet of Prairie Creek is now a thing of the past. A former first-class birding area with its tremendous trees and mixed understory including hawthorns, it has now been largely leveled by bulldozers, converted to a city dump, with the plan of making the area level and ultimately into a park. It is with regret that I write that it is unlikely we shall again see in the area Wood Ducks perched on limbs of trees, Great Horned Owl families, or myriads of migrating warblers in the hawthorns. A left turn from "C" Street takes one south along the Cedar River, which continues to be a profitable birding area especially in the winter months.

Sixth Street Woods along Hawkeye Downs and Prairie Creek has been visited. Along Sixth Street west were formerly two ponds where King Rails were often seen in the first pond and shore-birds in the second. These two ponds have given way to housing developments, begun in the late '40's.

#### FAVORITE OUTLYING AREAS

The birding areas of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club outside the city limits have not been subject to the urban pressures and consequently have maintained themselves quite successfully through the last 20 years. The fact that many of them are state parks or game management areas has predisposed their maintenance of a status quo.

To describe the areas around Cedar Rapids adequately, we shall start with the regions to the north and proceed clockwise around the city.

North and a bit west of the city lies the small town of Palo, and adjacent on the Cedar River is the Chain Lakes area, a timbered tract along the river with marsh areas also present. Prior to reaching Palo the road passes through Covington from which a county road straight north leads to a hanging bog which is of primary interest to botanists. Farther north along the river, i.e. north of Palo, one reaches so-called Lewis Bottoms, rich bottomland along the Cedar with rich bird life.

Directly north of Cedar Rapids, Marion Springs has been visited with good success as well as the Indian Creek territory north of Marion. Farther north along the Wapsipinicon River near Paris, Iowa, a wooded area has been very productive of bird life.

East of Cedar Rapids lies Palisades-Kepler State Park with its colonies of Cliff Swallows and deeply timbered river bluffs. Still farther east, about 30 miles from Cedar Rapids, lies state-owned Muskrat Slough with its abundance of marsh birds and migratory water-fowl. Other areas visited on Bird Club field trips to the east include Wapsipinicon State Park at Anamosa, and farther east, the Painted Rocks Wilderness area near Monticello where nesting Pileated Woodpeckers were observed.

South of Cedar Rapids, however, lies the area where nine out of every ten field trips have their destination. Specifically, Swan Lake, a 44-acre, state-owned marsh located some 16 miles south of Cedar Rapids and west of North Liberty, has been the focus of attention for many years. It has always been a neat, circumscribed area where all the migratory ducks and shore-birds could be learned. Before the advent of the automobile, or at least its common usage, such men as Bert Heald Bailey of Coe College and Dr. Alfred Bailey of the Denver Museum, who was then a student at the University of Iowa, would ride the interurban and drop off at the nearest

spot to Swan Lake. In the two years the author spent photographing at Swan Lake, 93 species of birds were seen on the lake or its immediate shoreline. Strangely enough, on two occasions the lake has gone completely dry, once in the mid '30's and again in the mid '50's; but now in 1959, it is again well-filled and teeming with bird life. It is little wonder that a walk around the lake is a "must" for a Bird Club field trip!

Almost equally important with Swan Lake, and certainly so in the earlier period, was Lily Lake at the Amana Colonies with its surrounding rain pools and wet meadows. Here again ducks, geese and other birds abounded, and birding from the dike along the Amana mill-race was a thrill for all the members of the Club lucky enough to be along.

Between Amana and Swan Lake stretched the lush Iowa River valley, the pinnacle of birding in our area. Here lie 7,000 acres of Amana timber with Cerulean Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers and Acadian Flycatchers, to mention a few species. Sparrow Hill with its brushy cover for migratory sparrows is no more, but plenty of suitable habitat remains. The timber near the Dupont bridge yields a great number of species, and all the side roads



SCENE IN PALISADES PARK  
Photograph by Fred W. Kent



of the area are excellent for gasoline ornithology. It was in this Iowa River valley that a colony of Cliff Swallows on the side of a barn persisted for so long. They are now gone, having been driven away by House Sparrows.

Another well-known birding area to the south of us is Lake Macbride State Park. This area has been expanded in the last two years due to the construction of the Coralville Dam and reservoir which made it necessary to build the Macbride Dam higher with a resulting larger lake. Prior to this time, however, many birding trips were made to this area to locate particularly the Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls, both found originally in the park by F. W. Kent of Iowa City, a long-time Cedar Rapids Bird Club member. What changes the larger lake will bring only time will tell.

Mention may be made of Bird Club trips to the Conesville marshes which are, of course, wonderful waterfowl areas.

With the construction of the Coralville Dam on the Iowa River and the filling of the Coralville Reservoir, Bird Club members will be most interested to see the effects on bird life and numbers. With the Reservoir filled for the first time this spring, a duck census by state authorities showed



SWAN LAKE

Photograph by Fred W. Kent



260,000 ducks to be present. Many areas along the pool will revert to nature, and roads that birders have used for years have been barricaded with the roadway itself reverting to a natural state. As time goes on we shall learn whether the Iowa River valley in this area will become more or less attractive to bird life.

To complete our circle of Cedar Rapids: To the west lies a region of 100% tilled land with the Beverly pond worthy of mention, a spot which yields a few shore-birds when no others are around. And in this rolling Iowa farm land the Upland Plover call often comes drifting down.

And so with this resume the author hopes he has covered the birding areas of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, together with important changes which have taken place or are pending. With the rich Iowa land as a basis, competent members have ticked off 210-215 bona fide species per year and on regular Bird Club field trips upwards of 150 species are seen per season.

Let us hope that the future of our birding areas and the future of our club's field ornithology will be brighter still in the years ahead.

## BIRD CLUB PIONEERS

By MYRA G. WILLIS

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

In the early spring of 1929, a group of Cedar Rapids residents interested in bird study decided to pool their enthusiasm and organize a bird club.

This was accomplished under the very able leadership of W. F. Kubichek, then an instructor in the Zoology Department at Coe College. In fact, he contributed so generously of his time and talents that he was often referred to by our members as "The Guardian Angel of the Bird Club."

The official name became "The Cedar Rapids Bird Club", and its officers consisted of a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. As nearly as can be told from the records, there were 21 charter members. These included five junior members. Club dues were set at one dollar, with junior memberships at fifty cents, and these dues have never been changed.

Mrs. Thomas B. Powell was elected the first president; Mrs. Charles Hubbard, vice-president; and Mrs. F. E. Russell, secretary-treasurer.

It was decided to hold meetings every other Monday in Science Hall at Coe College. These meetings were for a number of years devoted to the study of the structure and classification of birds, as well as to their value to man. Later it was decided to hold formal meetings on the first Monday of the month with a planned program, with the second meeting a bird-study group.

Our first field trip was to Swan Lake, in May, 1929, an area which has been visited many times since.

The Club has from the first been indebted to Coe for the privilege of using meeting space as well as specimens for ornithological study, and to members of the Science Department who, like Mr. Kubichek, have been most generous to the organization. These include Dr. Karl Goellner, Dr. Warren Keck, and Dr. Alfred Meyer. Though Dr. Keck and Mr. Kubichek have sought "greener pastures," we are happy to have them as honorary members.

In the spring of 1931, this young and ambitious organization dared to entertain the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at its annual convention, a project undertaken with less trepidation three times since then. Included in this program were two items by members of the club, a motion picture, "Grebes and Other Water Birds," by W. F. Kubichek, and a description of "Feeding Stations for Birds," by Mrs. Jennie Pratt.

Included in Club activities have been down-town window displays, exhibits at the flower show, a CARE package to a scientist in Europe, posting of Cedar Lake as a bird refuge, feeding of birds, and a scholarship to an Audubon Camp. And there has been much interesting field work.

Thirty years have sped away since the beginning of the Club. Members have come and gone, but the membership roll still includes the names of three charter members: Lavina Dragoo, Lillian Serbousek, and Myra Willis.



BIRD STUDY AT AMANA LAKE

Dr. Robert Vane at 'scope. Others are (left to right): Mrs. Robert Vane, Lillian Serbousek, Mrs. Morey Nassif, Dr. Alfred W. Meyer.

## THE ANNUAL BANQUET

By MRS. E. J. (ALICE) PETRANEK

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Once a year members of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club leave their slacks and sweaters hanging limply on a closet hook, their boots tucked away in a corner, and sally forth in their best bibs and tuckers to the annual banquet of the organization. No casual affair this, but a bona fide feast in the city's best hotel, with real table linen, silver, printed programs, candlelight and flowers. And for added attraction a special program is always planned for the occasion.

It all started very simply in the early history of the Club when there were only a dozen or so members. A "tea room" was the usual rendezvous for this particular affair in those early days. A tea room—for those who are too young to know about them—was a large room or rooms in the home of an ambitious housewife, who wished to earn a little pin-money by serving home-cooked meals to small parties. The food was always excellent.

Guessing contests, quiz programs, and games pertaining to ornithology, devised by the more clever members of the Club, were the usual form of entertainment, and prizes were given to those who came up with the best

answers. Mimeographed programs, printed by teacher members who had access to school mimeographing machines, were illustrated by our artist member, Earnest Steffen.

However, as the Club grew in membership, it became increasingly difficult to find places big enough to hold the attendance, and so it was finally decided that a hotel which offered plenty of room—and privacy—would be the best solution. It has proved to be a happy choice and the banquet always draws a large attendance.

Among the speakers who have appeared on the dinner programs have been such well-known bird people as Charles Broley, the eagle man, of Delta, Ontario, Dr. Martin Grant, Iowa State Teachers College, Fred T. Hall and Lang Baily, both of the Davenport Public Museum, Cleveland Grant, Mineral Point, Wisconsin, Albert Berkowitz of Des Moines, and Dr. Walter Breckenridge of the University of Minnesota. Last year S. H. MacDonald of the Natural History Museum of Ottawa, Canada, presented an excellent set of slides showing the birds and mammals of the Arctic.

Two picnics, one at the beginning and one at the close of each year, also lend variety to Club activities. These are held in one of the city parks, and birds definitely take second place as the "covered dishes" prepared by the feminine Club members reveal their contents on the picnic tables. Yes, food reigns supreme here and perhaps rightly so, for is not food the common denominator of both the winged and wingless inhabitants of the earth?

## CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB AND ITS ACTIVITIES

By MRS. ROBERT F. (JEAN WITMER) VANE

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Thanks to a succession of faithful secretaries, the activities of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club are recorded in detail in the minutes. They speak of enthusiastic bird watchers, students if you will, who joined together to learn and share their observations with one another; and they speak of a steady progress in excellence of bird study.

The stated objective of the Bird Club from the very beginning was: "To protect and preserve local wild birds, to stimulate interest and study in bird life, and to establish projects for conservation measures." And the activities of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club have centered around these objectives.

Regular meetings have always been the principal activity of the Club. During the first few years of its history, members met every two weeks during the school year and nearly always the meetings were in Science Hall of Coe College. Later the meetings were changed to once a month from September through June. Now the meetings are the first Monday night of each month, with a picnic meeting supplanting the regular meeting in the months of September and June.

In the early years of Bird Club meetings, emphasis was on a study-club type of program. A course of study was followed which included the order of birds, topography, field marks, use of an ornithological key and "other aspects of bird study." It is interesting to note that from the very beginning, visual aids, such as movies and slides as well as skins from the extensive collection in the Coe College museum, were used. Many of the early movies shown were taken by Prof. W. F. Kubichek, zoology professor at Coe, who was the moving spirit of the Club.

The programs through the years have stayed remarkably close to ornithology, with perhaps more and more emphasis on colored slides and col-

ored motion pictures. A sampling of program subjects might include such topics as "Structure of Feathers," "Shorthand for Bird Songs," "Considerations of Bird Migration," "Field Marks of the Warblers," "Panel Discussion of Shore-birds," and "Optical Instruments for Bird-watching." Other more general program subjects included colored motion-picture programs, ornithological book reviews, colored-slide group programs, summer observations of birds by all members, travelogues with emphasis on birds and technical dissertations by Coe College staff members.

A series which proved to be very interesting was a ten-minute item at the beginning of each program called "Birds in the News." During this time a member discussed any pertinent ornithological news printed in the preceding month. These were from newspapers and magazines.

Another regular feature of each meeting is the reporting of bird observations. All bona fide bird observations are thus noted and kept in the Club's records by The Recorder of Migrations.

On occasion out-of-the-ordinary meetings are held. These have included trips to the museum at the State University of Iowa, and dinner meetings at Cornell College with a visit and program in the college's ornithological library.

Prior to the sponsorship of the Audubon Screen Tours, outstanding naturalist lecturers with colored motion pictures were brought to the city once or twice a year by the Club. Such men as Dr. Walter Breckenridge, of the University of Minnesota; Dr. Martin Grant, of Iowa State Teachers College; Murl Deusing, then of the Milwaukee Museum, and Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, then of Carleton College, were among those brought to Cedar Rapids for these occasions. Banquet meetings of the Club are being described in another article in this issue.

Field trips, too, are a major Club activity. Nearly always they are held on the Sunday following the Club meeting. During the times of major migratory movements, the field trips may last the entire day; other times, they are usually half-day trips.

In addition to the field trips, the Club has conducted Christmas censuses through the years with the results published in *Iowa Bird Life*. For the years that *Iowa Bird Life* published a migratory bird census, the Club always participated, mapping out a dawn-to-dusk field trip visiting all habitats and listing up to 127 species. Although these migratory bird censuses are no longer published, the Club still enjoys its "Big Day" in May.

The Cedar Rapids Bird Club has acted as host to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union four times. The first occasion, in 1931, is covered elsewhere in this issue.

On May 6 and 7, 1938, the Cedar Rapids Bird Club was again host to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. This Friday and Saturday meeting was held in the Montrose Hotel with I.O.U. President Myrle Jones, then of Pomeroy, Iowa, presiding. For a full report of this meeting, the reader is referred to the June, 1938, issue of *Iowa Bird Life*.

The third time the Club played host to the I.O.U. was a restricted war-time meeting held on Sunday, May 16, 1943, in Cedar Rapids with Dr. Martin Grant, president, in the chair. It was a one-day affair with short field trips conducted in the morning. There were only three parties out, two of them around the city and the third going as far into the country as 3 miles. Gasoline rationing laid a heavy hand on field ornithology. The composite list of birds that day included 111 species.

Dr. Warren Keck of Coe College was president of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club at that time. There were no papers presented; in place of a program, new rules for census-taking and a revised Iowa Ornithologists' Union constitution were discussed.



#### CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB FIELD TRIPS

Upper photograph: Taken in early spring of 1948, on the shores of Swan Lake. Left to right, standing, Myra Willis, Esther Copp, Knute Nomland, Virginia Slauson, Dr. Peter Laude, Mrs. Robert Vane, Lillian Serbousek, Tillie Prestegard. Kneeling are Dick Turner and Mrs. Peter Laude.

Lower photograph: Taken on a Christmas bird census, December 18, 1949, at Lake Macbride Park. Left to right, standing, Ed Thatcher, Dr. Peter Laude, Dick Turner, Tom Kent, Knute Nomland. Kneeling and sitting are Dr. Alfred W. Meyer, Dr. Robert Vane, Mrs. Peter Laude, Fred W. Kent. (Enlargements from slides by Dr. Robert Vane)

In 1952 the Club again was host to the I.O.U., this fourth time on the occasion of the centennial celebration of Coe College. All programs were held in the newly-constructed Hickok Hall, the banquet was held in Voorhees Hall, and the new Coe auditorium was the setting for the event of the evening. Cleveland P. Grant of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, with his film, "Adventures in Color with American Birds and Big Game."

Field trips left the Roosevelt Hotel next morning at 4:45. An art exhibit by a club member, Earnest Steffen, was on display in Hickok Hall.

In 1947, the Cedar Rapids Bird Club in cooperation with the Natural Science Club signed a contract with the National Audubon Society to sponsor the Audubon Screen Tours. The Audubon Screen Tours bring outstanding natural history lecturers who personally present their colored movie films on a variety of wildlife subjects. These programs are presented in the interest of wildlife protection, wise use of natural resources and conservation education. A series of five has been held each year since that time. They have been presented at St. Paul's Methodist and the First Christian churches and Franklin high school auditorium, but now are regularly shown in the excellent Coe College auditorium where viewing is at its best. Attendance varies from 400 to 800 people, and participation in this series has enabled the Club to aid the National Audubon Society with funds and also to build up its own treasury. Of course the main purpose has never been lost sight of, that of bringing conservation ideas to the city.

The group has never been hesitant to voice itself on matters of concern, be they local, state or federal. Through the years the Club has consistently opposed hunting of the Mourning Dove in Iowa, and in the years that this was brought before the legislature, both individual and Club letters were sent. An interesting sidelight was the Club's endorsement of the Dickcissel for the state bird.

On a more local level, the Club in 1958 endorsed the formation of a county conservation board, contributing to this program not only financially but also two members. The Club is proud that two of the five-man board are members of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club.

Whenever the possibility arose of conserving certain areas within the city, such as Cedar Lake, Mound Farm or Prairie Creek, the Cedar Rapids Bird Club always raised its voice on the side of protecting them in their native state. Unfortunately, the end results have not been what we would have desired.

Miscellaneous activities of the Club also include exhibits of birds at flower shows and in department store windows when they were called for. A Club historian maintains a scrap-book. An annual program booklet is always published.

Individual Bird Club members have been generous with their time in providing programs at Iowa Ornithologists' Union meetings, exchange programs with other bird clubs, on one occasion at a Wilson Club meeting, and before lay audiences of the area.

This article would not be complete without listing those who have served as president. They are: Mrs. Thomas B. Powell, the first president in 1929; Miss Lavina Dragoo, who served 1929-30 and again 1945-47; Miss Myra Willis, 1930-32 and again 1954-55; Miss Lillian Serbousek, 1932-34; E. J. Petranek, 1934-36; Miss Esther Copp, 1936-38; Dr. Warren Keck, 1938-40 and again 1942-43; Mrs. E. J. Petranek, 1940-41; Earnest W. Steffen, 1941-42; Miss Iola Tillapaugh, 1943-45; Dr. Robert Vane, 1947-50; Miss Margaret Lahr, 1950-51; Miss Marjorie Brunner, 1951-53; Miss Wilma Van Orsdol, 1953-54; Dr. Karl E. Goellner, 1955-57; and Dr. J. Harold Ennis, 1957-59.

The foregoing in some measure covers the activities of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, but an intangible quality must be mentioned in closing. In reading over secretaries' minutes of 30 years, one is struck by the enthusiasm of the individuals, the cohesiveness and camaraderie of the group and the stimulation of each member by the others. It seems remarkable that all this has been carried on by from 30 to 50 members through the years.

## BIRD RECORDS OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB

Compiled by LILLIAN SERBOUSEK

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Although the Cedar Rapids Bird Club was organized in 1929, the year 1935 marks the beginning of the Club's first bird observation records. Prior to that time, members kept their own records but nothing further was done with them. Beginning with 1935, and at the end of each calendar year, members give their observations with the necessary data to the Recorder of Bird Records. He, in turn, records the date, locality, and the name of the person making the first observation of each species on individual cards which are kept in a card-file.

The following list gives the earliest observation of all the birds seen by members from 1935 to 1958, mainly from the eastern part of the state. If the earliest observation of any species falls on the same date for more than one year, the year of the first observation is used. For example, the Pied-billed Grebe was seen on January 1 in 1947, 1951, and 1955, so 1947 was the year selected.

It is interesting to note that in the 24 years of keeping records, a total of 272 species have been listed. Of these, 11 have been observed only once (shown with \*), and 140 species have been recorded every year (shown with \*\*).

Three additional species from western Iowa have been recorded by members. These are:

Gray Partridge, January 1, 1939, Ida County—Dragoo.

Burrowing Owl, July 10, 1935, Cherokee County—Dragoo.

Western Kingbird, May 13, 1939, Spirit Lake—Serbousek.

The observers are listed by their last names only in most cases. The full names are: C. Esther Copp, Lavina Dragoo, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Dr. Warren N. Keck, Fred W. Kent, Dr. Peter P. Laude, Dr. Alfred W. Meyer, Emil J. Petranek, Lillian Serbousek, Earnest W. Steffen, Dr. Robert F. Vane, Myra G. Willis.

Common Loon, March 17, 1945, Amana Lake—Keck.

Horned Grebe, April 3, 1936, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.

Eared Grebe, April 2, 1958, Wheatland—Copp.

Western Grebe, March 29, 1938, Cedar Lake—Keck.

\*\*Pied-billed Grebe, January 1, 1947, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.

White Pelican, March 30, 1956, Amana Lake—Kent.

\*\*Double-crested Cormorant, January 1, 1951, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.

\*\*Great Blue Heron, March 13, 1954, DuPont Bridge—Laude.

\*\*Green Heron, April 8, 1956, Conesville—Laude.

Little Blue Heron, May 9, 1957, Amana Lake—Laude.

Common Egret, March 22, 1955, Iowa City—Laude.

Snowy Egret, July 13, 1949, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.

\*\*Black-crowned Night Heron, April 3, 1942, Amana Lake—Serbousek.

\*Yellow-crowned Night Heron, April 26, 1958, Conesville—Laude, Kent.

Least Bittern, April 24, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.

\*\*American Bittern, March 31, 1957, Swan Lake—Kent.





LAKE MACBRIDE, LOOKING EAST—IOWA RIVER IN FOREGROUND  
Airplane photograph by James Kent

- \*White-faced Glossy Ibis, August 10, 1954, Swan Lake—Meyer.
- Whistling Swan, March 25, 1950, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Canada Goose, February 19, 1954, Conesville—Kent.
- White-fronted Goose, March 12, 1956, Conesville—Kent.
- Lesser Canada Goose, March 3, 1957, Odessa—Laude.
- Hutchins' Goose, January 4, 1958, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Snow Goose, February 28, 1953, Conesville—Kent.
- Blue Goose, February 21, 1954, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Mallard, January 1, 1941, Cedar Lake—E. Petranek.
- Black Duck, January 1, 1950, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Gadwall, January 1, 1954, Cedar River—Serbousek.
- \*\*Pintail, January 1, 1954, Cedar River—Serbousek.
- Green-winged Teal, February 20, 1954, Swan Lake—Laude.
- \*\*Blue-winged Teal, March 3, 1950, Swan Lake—Kent.
- \*\*American Widgeon, January 2, 1956, Cedar River—Serbousek.
- \*\*Shoveler, March 2, 1956, Iowa City—Kent.
- Wood Duck, January 1, 1955, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Redhead, January 1, 1948, Cedar Lake—Vane.
- \*\*Ring-necked Duck, January 1, 1952, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Canvasback, January 1, 1956, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Lesser Scaup, January 1, 1941, Cedar Lake—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Common Goldeneye, January 1, 1958, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Bufflehead, January 1, 1954, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Old-Squaw, February 16, 1952, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Ruddy Duck, January 1, 1954, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Hooded Merganser, January 1, 1947, Cedar Lake—Vane.
- \*\*Common Merganser, January 1, 1950, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Red-breasted Merganser, February 21, 1943, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Turkey Vulture, March 17, 1938, Johnson County—Keck.
- \*Goshawk, January 3, 1953, Curtis Road—Laude.
- \*\*Sharp-shinned Hawk, January 1, 1956, Wheatland—Copp.
- \*\*Cooper's Hawk, January 2, 1937, Beverly—Serbousek.
- \*\*Red-tailed Hawk, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- Krider's Hawk, January 3, 1949, Solon—Laude.
- Harlan's Hawk, January 1, 1953, Conesville—Laude.
- Red-shouldered Hawk, January 1, 1951, Iowa City—Laude.
- Broad-winged Hawk, March 3, 1940, Amana—E. Petranek.
- Swarson's Hawk, April 4, 1956, Amana—Laude.
- \*\*Rough-legged Hawk, January 1, 1939, Central City—E. Petranek.
- Bald Eagle, January 9, 1954, Davenport—Copp.
- \*\*Marsh Hawk, January 1, 1936, Keokuk—Serbousek.
- \*\*Osprey, March 1, 1941, Central City—E. Petranek.
- Peregrine Falcon, April 21, 1957, Iowa City—Kent.
- Pigeon Hawk, September 22, 1951, Conesville—Kent.
- \*\*Sparrow Hawk, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- Ruffed Grouse, May 8, 1954, Yellow River—Copp.
- \*\*Bobwhite, January 1, 1951, Amana—Laude.
- \*\*Ring-necked Pheasant, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*Sandhill Crane, April 27, 1958, Muskrat Slough—Ennis.
- King Rail, April 20, 1952, Swan Lake—Serbousek.
- Virginia Rail, April 20, 1947, Swan Lake—Vane.
- \*\*Sora Rail, April 4, 1948, Swan Lake—Willis.
- Common Gallinule, April 5, 1942, Clear Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*American Coot, January 1, 1954, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Semipalmated Plover, April 2, 1952, Amana—Vane.
- Piping Plover, April 16, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.

- \*\*Killdeer, January 1, 1954, Cedar River—Serbousek.
- American Golden Plover, March 5, 1956, Swan Lake—Laude.
- Black-bellied Plover, April 20, 1946, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- Ruddy Turnstone, May 19, 1940, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- \*Wilson's Plover, September 23, 1950, Conesville—Laude.
- American Woodcock, March 10, 1950, Iowa City—Laude.
- \*\*Common Snipe, February 12, 1958, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Upland Plover, April 3, 1948, Cedar Rapids Airport—Meyer.
- \*\*Spotted Sandpiper, April 3, 1939, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- \*\*Solitary Sandpiper, April 3, 1939, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- Willet, April 20, 1943, Wheatland—Copp.
- \*\*Greater Yellowlegs, March 21, 1953, Amana—Serbousek.
- \*\*Lesser Yellowlegs, March 5, 1955, Conesville—Kent.
- \*\*Pectoral Sandpiper, March 15, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.
- White-rumped Sandpiper, May 10, 1941, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- Baird's Sandpiper, April 8, 1955, Swan Lake—Laude.
- \*Least Sandpiper, April 16, 1955, Swan Lake—Laude.
- Dunlin, May 3, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.
- Long-billed Dowitcher, April 21, 1950, Swan Lake—Kent..
- Stilt Sandpiper, April 25, 1957, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper, May 3, 1938, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- Western Sandpiper, April 16, 1955, Swan Lake—Laude.
- \*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, May 6, 1956, Swan Lake—Laude.
- Marbled Godwit, April 8, 1956, Amana Dike—Serbousek.
- Hudsonian Godwit, April 19, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.
- Sanderling, May 11, 1957, Amana Lake—Laude.
- American Avocet, May 8, 1955, Amana Lake—Kent.
- Wilson's Phalarope, April 21, 1941, Amana Lake—Keck.
- Northern Phalarope, May 6, 1950, Swan Lake—Kent.
- \*Red Phalarope, May 17, 1940, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Herring Gull, January 2, 1950, Cedar Lake—Vane.
- \*\*Ring-billed Gull, January 1, 1950, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Franklin's Gull, April 4, 1956, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- Bonaparte's Gull, April 6, 1941, Amana Lake—Keck.
- Forster's Tern, April 12, 1953, Cedar Lake—Copp.
- Common Tern, April 14, 1952, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.
- Least Tern, June 3, 1955, Amana Lake—Serbousek.
- Caspian Tern, April 13, 1944, Cedar Rapids—Copp.
- \*\*Black Tern, April 13, 1946, Swan Lake—Laude.
- \*\*Mourning Dove, January 1, 1950, Oakdale—Laude.
- \*\*Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 5, 1941, Amana—Copp.
- \*\*Black-billed Cuckoo, May 4, 1950, Iowa City—Laude.
- Barn Owl, March 30, 1935, Clear Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Screech Owl, January 1, 1957, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- Great Horned Owl, January 2, 1947, Wheatland—Copp.
- Snowy Owl, January 8, 1950, Cedar Lake—Vane.
- \*\*Barred Owl, January 1, 1945, Ellis Park—Serbousek.
- Long-eared Owl, January 1, 1953, Macbride Park—Serbousek.
- Short-eared Owl, January 1, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.
- Saw-whet Owl, January 1, 1953, Macbride Park—Serbousek.
- Whip-poor-will, April 13, 1941, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*Common Nighthawk, May 1, 1938, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- \*\*Chimney Swift, April 12, 1941, Keosauqua—Keck.
- \*\*Ruby-throated Hummingbird, April 28, 1954, Iowa City—Laude.
- \*\*Belted Kingfisher, January 1, 1950, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Yellow-shafted Flicker, January 1, 1949, Iowa City—Laude.

- Pileated Woodpecker, January 2, 1954, Wheatland—Copp.
- \*\*Red-bellied Woodpecker, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Red-headed Woodpecker, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, January 2, 1948, Iowa City—Laude.
- \*\*Hairy Woodpecker, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Downy Woodpecker, January 1, 1935, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- \*\*Eastern Kingbird, April 26, 1942, Fairfax—Serbousek.
- \*\*Great Crested Flycatcher, April 30, 1955, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Eastern Phoebe, March 17, 1945, Amana—Serbousek.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, May 5, 1946, Palisades—Keck.
- Acadian Flycatcher, May 19, 1958, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- Trail's Flycatcher, May 4, 1950, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Least Flycatcher, April 30, 1944, Wheatland—Copp.
- \*\*Eastern Wood Pewee, April 20, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Copp.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher, April 22, 1953, Cedar Rapids—Copp.
- \*\*Horned Lark, January 1, 1936, Keokuk—Serbousek.
- Northern Horned Lark, January 27, 1951, Amana—Kent.
- \*\*Tree Swallow, April 1, 1956, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Bank Swallow, April 13, 1941, Amana—Serbousek.
- \*\*Rough-winged Swallow, April 8, 1956, Amana—Serbousek.
- \*\*Barn Swallow, April 10, 1948, Swan Lake—Laude.
- \*\*Cliff Swallow, April 25, 1948, Amana—Vane.
- \*\*Purple Martin, March 8, 1938, Cedar Rapids—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Blue Jay, January 1, 1936, Keokuk—Willis.
- \*\*Common Crow, January 1, 1936, Central City—Petranek.
- \*\*Black-capped Chickadee, January 1, 1935, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- \*\*Tufted Titmouse, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*White-breasted Nuthatch, January 1, 1935, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch, January 1, 1944, Cedar Rapids—Willis.
- \*\*Brown Creeper, January 1, 1939, Keosauqua—Keck.
- \*\*House Wren, April 16, 1954, Davenport—Copp.
- Winter Wren, January 1, 1951, Macbride Park—Kent.
- Bewick's Wren, February 28, 1953, Iowa City—Laude.
- Carolina Wren, January 1, 1955, Iowa City—Kent.
- Long-billed Marsh Wren, April 25, 1948, Swan Lake—Vane.
- Short-billed Marsh Wren, May 6, 1956, Macbride Park—Laude.
- Mockingbird, January 4, 1958, Iowa City—Laude.
- \*\*Catbird, April 24, 1943, Keosauqua—Keck.
- \*\*Brown Thrasher, January 1, 1938, Cedar Rapids—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Robin, January 1, 1951, West Amana—Laude.
- \*\*Wood Thrush, April 27, 1935, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Hermit Thrush, April 1, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- \*\*Swainson's Thrush, April 8, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- \*\*Gray-cheeked Thrush, April 8, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- \*\*Veery, April 13, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Steffen.
- \*\*Eastern Bluebird, January 1, 1951, West Amana—Laude.
- \*\*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, April 12, 1941, Keosauqua—Keck.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet, January 1, 1953, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Ruby-crowned Kinglet, March 28, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.
- Water Pipit, March 3, 1956, Fairfax—Serbousek.
- Sprague's Pipit, April 16, 1950, Amana—Laude.
- \*Bohemian Waxwing, December 31, 1954, Curtis Road—Kent.
- \*\*Cedar Waxwing, January 1, 1953, Iowa City—Laude.
- Northern Shrike, January 1, 1953, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Loggerhead Shrike, February 12, 1958, Conesville Road—Kent.
- \*\*Starling, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.

- White-eyed Vireo, May 25, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.  
 Bell's Vireo, May 14, 1944, Des Moines—Copp.  
 \*\*Yellow-throated Vireo, May 2, 1957, Iowa City—Kent.  
 \*\*Solitary Vireo, April 28, 1940 Central City—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Red-eyed Vireo April 25, 1939, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 Philadelphia Vireo, May 6, 1948, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Warbling Vireo, April 3, 1951, Iowa City—Kent.  
 \*\*Black-and-white Warbler, April 29, 1951, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 Prothonotary Warbler, May 3, 1941, Central City—E. Petranek.  
 Golden-winged Warbler, May 3, 1941, Central City—E. Petranek.  
 \*\*Blue-winged Warbler, April 26, 1942, Macbride Park, Copp.  
 \*\*Tennessee Warbler, April 26, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.  
 Orange-crowned Warbler, April 23, 1939, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 \*\*Nashville Warbler, April 30, 1944, Wheatland—Copp.  
 Parula Warbler, May 7, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Yellow Warbler, April 21, 1957, Iowa City—Kent.  
 \*\*Magnolia Warbler, May 2, 1943, Cedar Rapids—Dragoo.  
 Cape May Warbler, May 6, 1946, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler, May 9, 1939, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 \*\*Myrtle Warbler, February 7, 1954, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 Black-throated Green Warbler, April 30, 1939, Chain Lakes—Serbousek.  
 Cerulean Warbler, May 8, 1955, Iowa City—Vane.  
 \*\*Blackburnian Warbler, April 30, 1944, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 3, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.  
 Bay-breasted Warbler, May 9, 1936, Fairfield—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Blackpoll Warbler, May 2, 1954, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 Pine Warbler, April 17, 1948, Dixon—Copp.  
 \*\*Palm Warbler, April 21, 1958, Cedar Rapids—Copp.  
 \*\*Ovenbird, April 29, 1951, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Northern Waterthrush, April 25, 1946, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 Louisiana Waterthrush, April 13, 1941, Keosauqua—Keck.  
 Kentucky Warbler, May 2, 1952, Iowa City—Laude.  
 Connecticut Warbler, May 7, 1938, 6th Street Woods—Copp.  
 Mourning Warbler, May 6, 1956, Amana Dike—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Yellowthroat, April 25, 1954, Wheatland—Copp.  
 Yellow-breasted Chat, May 11, 1957, Wheatland—Copp.  
 \*\*Wilson's Warbler, May 6, 1942, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 Canada Warbler, May 6, 1946, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
 \*\*American Redstart, April 30, 1951, Iowa City—Kent.  
 \*\*Brewster's Warbler, May 15, 1948, Iowa City—Laude.  
 \*\*House Sparrow, January 1, 1935, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Bobolink, April 10, 1948, Shellsburg—Meyer.  
 \*\*Eastern Meadowlark, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.  
 \*\*Western Meadowlark, January 1, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird, April 20, 1946, Swan Lake—Laude.  
 \*\*Redwinged Blackbird, January 1, 1953, Iowa City—Laude.  
 Orchard Oriole, May 5, 1950, Cedar Rapids—Vane.  
 \*\*Baltimore Oriole, April 24, 1957, Iowa City—Kent.  
 \*\*Rusty Blackbird, January 19, 1957, Iowa City—Kent.  
 Brewer's Blackbird, January 1, 1950, Swan Lake—Laude.  
 \*\*Common Grackle, January 1, 1939, Central City—E. Petranek.  
 \*\*Brown-headed Cowbird, February 18, 1951, River Road South—Vane.  
 \*\*Scarlet Tanager, May 1, 1952, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
 \*\*Summer Tanager, May 21, 1940, 6th Street Woods—Alice Petranek.  
 \*\*Cardinal, January 1, 1936, Cedar Rapids—E. Petranek.  
 \*\*Rose-breasted Grosbeak, April 23, 1945, Henry County—Keck.

- \*Blue Grosbeak, May 11, 1942, Cedar Rapids—Keck.
- \*\*Indigo Bunting, May 2, 1942, Wheatland—Copp.
- \*\*Dickcissel, April 27, 1951, Davenport—Kent.  
Evening Grosbeak, January 24, 1955, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Purple Finch, January 1, 1940, Cedar Rapids—E. Petranek,  
Common Redpoll, January 11, 1958, East Amana—Serbousek.  
Pine Siskin, January 1, 1953, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*American Goldfinch, January 1, 1949, Iowa City—Laude.  
White-winged Crossbill, January 1, 1958, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Rufous-sided Towhee, February 20, 1938, Cedar Rapids—Keck.  
Savannah Sparrow, March 25, 1953, Conesville—Laude.
- \*\*Grasshopper Sparrow, April 25, 1954, Johnson County—Kent.  
LeConte's Sparrow, April 12, 1935, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.  
Henslow's Sparrow, April 27, 1947, Wheatland—Copp.  
Sharp-tailed Sparrow, April 26, 1952, Swan Lake—Kent.
- \*\*Vesper Sparrow, March 22, 1953, Swan Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Lark Sparrow, April 14, 1956, Amana—Laude.
- \*\*Slate-colored Junco, January 1, 1936, Central City—Petranek.
- \*\*Tree Sparrow, January 1, 1936, Central City—E. Petranek.
- \*\*Chipping Sparrow, March 28, 1945, Cedar Rapids—Serbousek.  
Clay-colored Sparrow, April 8, 1944, Amana—Serbousek.
- \*\*Field Sparrow, March 13, 1955, Iowa City—Kent.
- \*\*Harris' Sparrow, January 12, 1957, Sand Road—Laude.
- \*\*White-crowned Sparrow, January 1, 1954, Cedar Lake—Serbousek.  
Gambel's Sparrow, January 1, 1955, Sand Road—Kent.
- \*\*White-throated Sparrow, January 6, 1953, Cedar Rapids—Vane.
- \*\*Fox Sparrow, January 1, 1951, Iowa City—Kent.  
Lincoln's Sparrow, March 27, 1954, Swan Lake—Serbousek.
- \*\*Swamp Sparrow, March 31, 1945, Amana—Serbousek.
- \*\*Song Sparrow, January 1, 1951, Iowa City—Laude.  
Lapland Longspur, January 1, 1958, Cedar Rapids Municipal Airport—  
Serbousek.
- Snow Bunting, January 1, 1958, North Liberty—Laude.

## PIED-BILLED GREBE

Drawing by Earnest W. Steffen



## THE WHOOPING CRANE AND ITS WINTER DOMAIN

By W. F. KUBICHEK

United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(With photographs by the author)

About 100 years ago, the Whooping Crane ranged over most of the continent east of the Rocky Mountains and from the Arctic Circle to northern Mexico. It has been found nowhere else on earth and, apparently, has never been exceedingly numerous.

Most majestic of North American birds, the Whooping Crane stands 4½ feet tall. Both sexes have pure white plumage except for black wing-tips usually visible only when the birds are flying. The top and sides of the head are bare of feathers, though the crimson red crown is sparsely covered by black bristles; the cheeks are heavily bristled, giving the appearance of a mustache. In flight, the long neck and dark-colored legs are carried fully extended.

The rust-colored young, with fully-feathered crowns, also have black wing-tips. Soon after the first of the year, they begin to lose the rusty color in a gradual molt and become progressively lighter. By the end of April, they are nearly as white as their parents.

In flight, they have a slow downbeat and fast upbeat of the wings. A family of four passing directly overhead, not over 50 feet up, against the blue sky is a sight not to be forgotten.

A whooper nest found at Muddy Lake, Saskatchewan, in 1922, constituted the last nesting record for 33 years, for it was not until 1955 that a pair of whoopers with young was discovered by a Canadian Park Service biologist while flying over Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Records indicate that northern Iowa was the center of the former breeding territory, and the last nest of migrant whoopers in the United States was found in 1894 in Hancock County, Iowa. Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson saw five whoopers in Clay County on April 9, 1911, which constitutes the last occurrence date in Iowa.

About the middle of October, the remnants of the former Whooping Crane population return to their one remaining ancestral wintering area. Nearly all this habitat lies within the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, near Austwell, Texas. Although the total area of this refuge is about 47,000 acres, only the eastern salt-marsh portion, with its many estuaries and bays, constitutes the important wintering habitat. This area, averaging 3 miles in width and 15 miles in length, is bisected by the Intra-coastal Waterway.

Pairs that have established their territories in previous years return to the same ones. The younger birds must find new territories or occupy

*An invitation was extended to the Cedar Rapids Bird Club's first sponsor, W. F. Kubichek, former Professor of Zoology at Coe College, to submit an article for publication in this Thirtieth Anniversary Issue. Professor Kubichek was the guiding light of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club in its infancy, starting the young club out on a pattern which has lasted through the years.*

*In 1934 Mr. Kubichek left Coe College and Cedar Rapids to enter work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. In this capacity he has been connected with numerous ornithological investigations. The Cedar Rapids Bird Club is delighted to publish the following illustrated article on the Whooping Crane concerning which Mr. Kubichek is an expert.*



those vacated by the death of the previous occupants. These territories are guarded zealously by their rightful occupants and, if other whoopers trespass, a fight usually ensues. If one or both are family groups, the young cranes do not participate in the fracas. The adults of the opposing groups lunge at each other, jabbing with their bills, fly up a short distance, and dive at their adversaries. This struggle for possession of the territory ends when the invaders are driven beyond its boundaries. Although they are antagonistic toward their own kind with respect to territorial possession, they are quite tolerant of other species of birds which use the same habitat.

On the wintering grounds, the common blue crabs, shrimps, fishes, marine worms, and acorns comprise the bulk of their food. Acorns are usually taken when the birds wander about in the brush after coming inland to drink.



WHOOPING CRANE — ADULT

Photographed by the author in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, March, 1956.  
(Courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)



Fresh water for drinking purposes is essential to the Whooping Cranes' existence, and it is usually not found within an established territory. There are many fresh-water ponds scattered among the live-oak brush and trees in the interior of the refuge. These ponds are visited twice each day, once in the morning and again late in the afternoon. Since these watering places are outside of the whoopers' territories, there is no conflict when others of their kind come to drink at the same time.

Whoopers are very wary and always on the alert for any danger signals. This is particularly true of a pair with young, for one of the adults is constantly on guard, whether feeding, drinking, or resting.

From the time the whoopers arrive in the fall and until they leave in the spring, they are carefully counted at least once each week. Several census methods are employed. A jeep is used most frequently, although the combination of a jeep and motor boat with radio communication gives a better coverage. An airplane census is most satisfactory, but this method of enumerating the birds is governed by weather conditions.

Sectional maps are used in connection with these counts, and the location of every bird is marked. After a few surveys, the maps indicate where the different groups may be expected as well as the extent of their territories.

Although we are still rightfully concerned about the Whooping Cranes' future, the outlook is better now than it has been for the past 20 years. During the winter of 1938-39, only 14 whoopers were accounted for on and adjacent to the Aransas Refuge. While this population has fluctuated in the ensuing years, it has not dropped to that low record. At the time of the whoopers' northward migration last spring (1959), 32 wild birds were on their way. In addition to this wild population, 6 are held in captivity. Five of these are in the Audubon Park in New Orleans, where one pair was successful in raising three young. The other captive is located in the San Antonio Zoological Park. The three adults were captured as a result of wing injuries inflicted by careless hunters while the birds were in migration.

Since visitors are not allowed within any of the whoopers' territories, an observation tower was erected at the extreme north end of Mustang Lake, which overlooks one of the territories. A new road was built to the tower where a dense grove of trees and brush conceals the base of the tower and the car-parking area. From the cab atop the tower the entire lake is visible, but good field glasses are required to see the birds if they are at the far end of the lake. Visitors from nearly every State are registered among the thousands that come to the refuge primarily to see the whoopers.

Photographing these birds proved to be quite an ordeal. After studying the birds' habits for several days, blinds were erected at what appeared to be the most promising locations. Frequently, days on end were spent in the cramped quarters of the blind without making a single exposure. Most of the work was concentrated on motion pictures. A special feature of my assignment was to obtain movies of a family in flight, preferably alighting or rising. A watering pond was selected as a site for obtaining this picture. A dense grove of trees obscured a view of the lake, and it was impossible to see the birds until they were over the trees and ready to alight. Furthermore, they could come from any direction. Despite constant watching through the several peep-holes in the blind, the birds often would not be seen until they were almost on the ground.

A field telephone with a half-mile of wire connecting the blind with the observation tower was the solution. By this method, an observer in the

← On opposite page

WHOOPING CRANE FAMILY AT ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
Photographed by the author, March, 1936. (Courtesy U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

tower informed me when the birds left the lake and from which direction they were approaching. That took care of that picture. The next move was to get the birds to fly toward the camera. Two-way radios and another man in a jeep produced the desired results. A day was selected when the wind was blowing from the right direction, for the birds rise into the wind. The same procedure was followed as for the incoming picture. Time was allowed for the birds to get a drink but as soon as they started to wander away, a 'phone call to the observer in the tower was quickly relayed by radio to the jeep. The driver was previously instructed on the route he should take in approaching the birds. As the jeep neared the birds, they took flight; the camera buzzed at high speed; the picture was taken. This was repeated over a period of several days to insure getting one good scene, but, happily, they all turned out well.

Although the Aransas Refuge is best known as the wintering ground for these rare cranes, it is also used by many other wildlife species, including geese, ducks, shore-birds, hawks, native wild turkeys, deer, collared peccaries and armadillos. This interesting refuge is a mecca for bird watchers, many of whom return several years in succession.

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## GEORGE BERRY, IOWA NATURALIST

By ALFRED W. MEYER

Coe College  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

George Berry was born September 22, 1861, either in Canada or in Maine. His boyhood was spent in Maine. He attended Bates College and, according to one informant, he was expelled from that college. Others state that he taught in a Virginia college and had worked at the Smithsonian Institute as an illustrator. It is agreed that he had a great deal of ability in pen-and-ink drawing.

The first record connecting Mr. Berry with Iowa is a reference to birds collected by him at Keokuk in 1888. This reference appears in Anderson's "Birds of Iowa," 1907. The next record is dated 1890, also in Anderson; he is quoted as having observed 21 species of birds near Hawarden in Sioux County, where he stopped in May and June on his return from the Dakotas. Anderson also quotes him as having seen a Kittiwake at Clear Lake in 1891.

A newspaper article after his death in 1928 stated that he had been a resident of Cedar Rapids for 32 years, which would place his arrival in this city in about 1898. In 1890, the same year that he returned from the Dakotas, he was married to Minnie Burhin, a resident of Cedar Rapids. This suggests he had contacts with Cedar Rapids for eight years before he went there to live. I was informed in 1957 that Mrs. Berry was then living in Cedar Rapids, but I was unable to find any trace of her.

The earliest Linn County collection record made by Berry is 1904, when he presented two Evening Grosbeak skins to the Museum at Coe College. There follows a succession of records of bird skins, eggs and mounted specimens continuing until 1917.

During these years there was no systematic collection of plant specimens at Coe College, so there are no Berry plant records at Coe. There is, however, a large and interesting collection of plant specimens acquired from Mrs. Berry by the State University of Iowa. I have had no opportunity to examine these records, but those I have seen involve the same period as the birds collections at Coe College.

*George Berry, the subject of this article, was a somewhat obscure and controversial figure in the history of ornithology in the Cedar Rapids area and Iowa in general. It is appropriate, therefore, that Dr. Alfred W. Meyer, President-elect of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club and an acquaintance of the late Mr. Berry, should bring together here and evaluate some of the available data concerning this early student of natural history.*

—J. H. E.

In 1907, Bert Bailey, director of the Coe College Museum, took Mr. Berry with him on a collecting expedition to British Honduras in Central America. The Museum records credit Berry with the collection of about 50 specimens on that trip.

As Mr. Berry grew older, he apparently developed certain eccentricities which were definitely un-social. He ceased to take any pride in his personal appearance or in his home and surroundings. This resulted in the separation of him and Mrs. Berry. He appeared summer and winter in the same clothes which included a peculiar type of fur hat. He was always accompanied by a small, white dog. His home was a tumbled-down shack near the Cedar River. It was packed with plant specimens, half-decomposed birds and mammals, and equipment. This condition existed during the latter years in which he collected specimens for the Coe Museum and during which he was a member of the Iowa Academy of Science. Morris Sanford of Cedar Rapids recalls this period in Berry's life. He states that Berry was a regular visitor at Mr. Sanford's book store. At that time Berry was much interested in books. He came into the store two or three times each week to browse among the books and talk to clerks who were not too much repelled by his appearance.

At this time he was a man about 6 feet tall, 170 pounds, slightly stooped, twinkling blue eyes, light-complected, but dark brown hair and unshaven beard. He was courteous, good-natured, pleasant and witty. A number of observers including the author recall that his voice was unusually vibrant and pleasing. He could speak and write excellent English but preferred to drawl in a New England vernacular. The Museum at Coe College has a framed portrait of him made in 1920 with his fur cap, full beard, and accompanied by his fox terrier.

In February, 1927, his mental powers had failed to such an extent that Mayor Loftus of Cedar Rapids appointed a committee to hold a sanity hearing. As a result Berry was committed to the hospital at Independence. In the commitment papers his condition was described as senile. He died in October, 1928, of heart trouble and was buried in Cedar Rapids.

A resume of the record of Mr. Berry in natural history is quite impressive. The Coe College catalog of bird specimens and skins includes 116 which he collected, 50 of which came from Honduras. Most of the others are from Linn County. A large collection of plants, practically all collected in Linn County, are in the herbarium at the State University at Iowa City.

In the 1914 volume of the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science appear two quite long articles. One is a check-list on the "Flora of Linn County," by E. D. Verink, in which credit is given to Berry for access to his collections and for his assistance in identifying specimens. The other paper is by Berry and is a check-list of the "Lepidoptera of Linn County." Both these papers are among the first efforts in Iowa to catalog the plants and animals of the state.

An important compilation of birds in the state came earlier, when in 1907 the Davenport Academy of Science published "Birds of Iowa" by R. M. Anderson. In the introduction, the author lists the various authorities quoted on the relative abundance, nesting sites, etc. of the species listed in the book. Berry is listed as the authority in both Linn and Sioux counties. He is credited with a list of 266 species of birds seen in Iowa. His name appears 99 times in connection with different species in either Linn or Sioux County.

In the same year (1907) Bert Bailey was author of a small book, "200 Iowa Birds." The author credits Berry with many of the data concerning habitats and nesting habits.



GEORGE BERRY

"The Museum at Coe College has a framed portrait of him made in 1920, with his fur cap, full beard, and accompanied by his fox terrier."

(Copy of Coe College photograph made by Fred W. Kent)

In 1917-18, Bert Bailey, on leave from his teaching position at Coe College, attended the State University to complete his doctoral thesis. The dissertation was entitled "The Raptorial Birds of Iowa." He became ill and died two days before the Convocation at which he was to have received his degree. His assistant, Miss Clementina Spencer, edited his thesis material and it was published by the Iowa Geological Survey. The author gives credit to Berry for most of the field work—locating nests, collection of specimens and eggs, analysis of stomach contents, and other details.

These examples are listed as evidence of Berry's unusual training and ability as a naturalist. He was outstanding in Botany and Ornithology and apparently was trained in Entomology. His personal eccentricities were certainly no credit to him and they do present a problem. The suggestion has been made that they were the result of brain damage by tropical fever contracted on the Honduras trip.

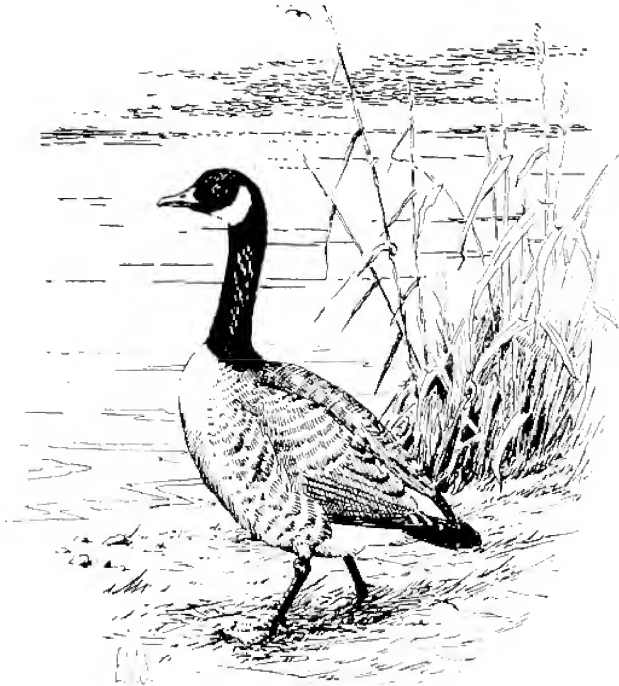
While making inquiries concerning the plant collections of Mr. Berry, I was asked a number of times as to the dependability of his records. In general, the records are found to be quite accurate and complete. Most of the specimens were collected in Linn County. However, among them are a number which seem questionable. They are plants which are unknown in Iowa but are found in New England. Some of them turned out to be Iowa plants similar to eastern varieties and evidently Berry erred in identifying them. Others are true eastern plants which were correctly identified; the location where Berry claims to have found them in Linn County is carefully described. There is also one plant the normal habitat of which is the salt marshes of the Atlantic coast. The exact location in Linn County was not given for this plant. The dates on these collections fall between 1903-1915, before Berry became eccentric.

Anderson reports that he examined two bird specimens collected by Berry near Keokuk on May 4, 1888. One is identified as a Sycamore Warbler and the other a Carolina Chickadee. Anderson minutely described them and apparently accepted the identifications. Pierce and Spiker have reported a sight record of this Chickadee in 1929, and the Sycamore Warbler has been reported at numerous times since Berry's original record, so there seems to be no reason for not accepting Berry's bird records.

The problem of the plant collections needs further study. An examination of the labels on the specimens and comparison with labels on other plants of same date should be made. The label on the salt-water plant may have been added during the last period of his life when he was not fully responsible. There is no evidence to support an accusation of dishonesty. Every person I was able to contact by word or letter who knew Mr. Berry, had complete confidence in his honesty as a specimen collector and natural science reporter. If there had been any question of his veracity in the minds

#### CANADA GOOSE

Drawing by  
Earnest W. Steffen





of those who organized the Honduras trip, he certainly would not have been accepted as a member of the expedition.

The record of Mr. Berry gives him an honored place in the history of the development of Natural Science in Iowa. One finds it difficult to evaluate his work in terms of the present day when habitats of plants and animals are concentrated and transportation by automobile has enlarged the working territory more than a hundred-fold. His territory was the region around Cedar Rapids within walking distance. Present Natural History activities in Iowa find their roots in the work of such men as George Berry. It is regrettable that he did not live to see the development of popular interest in Natural History as it exists today.

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## THE SONG OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS BIRD CLUB

Should you ask me, whence these stories?  
Whence these legends and traditions,  
With the odors of the forest,  
With the dew and damp of meadows,  
I should answer, I should tell you,  
Plagiarized from an immortal  
And parodied by Miss C. Esther.

On the shores of big Red Cedar,  
By our shining Cedar Lake,  
Stands Coe College, built for learning  
All the courses one might take.  
Here a teacher, an instructor,  
Wesley Kubichek by name,  
Knew the habitat of Redwing,  
Heron, sparrow, Sandhill Crane;  
Knew the Mockingbird and Goldfinch,  
Scarlet Tanager and owl;  
Recognized the Bobwhite's whistle,  
Call of dove and waterfowl;  
Felt the need of preservation  
Of the wild bird, game, and pine;  
So he organized the bird club  
In the year of twenty-nine.  
Organized his fifteen students,  
Mesdames Powell, Russell, Pratt,  
And a few other members  
With Lavina, Myra, Lil.  
These three are active members still,  
Loved for loyalty and friendliness  
And admired for their skill.

Meetings held they then bi-monthly,  
Took frequent field trips to Swan Lake,  
Waded marshes, climbed the hillsides,  
Drove along each country lane;  
Learned of every bird its language,  
Learned their names and all their secrets,  
How they built their nests in summer,  
Where they hid themselves in winter.

Many were added to the roll call:

Ethel, Wilma, L. F. Vane,  
Miriam, Esther, Mrs. Flodin,  
Emily, Tillie, Isabel,  
Virginia, Ingeborg, Dr. Meyer,  
Pauline, Verona, the Pazderas,  
Marie, Leona, the Petraneks.

The Petraneks, generous always,  
Took us to their river cabin;  
Fed us blueberries in Aunt Jemima's;  
Showed us Wood Ducks, White-crowned Sparrows,  
Early Pasque flowers, Virginia bluebells  
Carpeting the woods and meadows,  
Delicate blossoms, pink and fragrant,  
Of the wild crabapple thicket.

Pleasant was the journey homeward!  
All the birds sang loud and sweetly,  
Songs of happiness and heart's-ease;  
And the evening sun descending  
Set the clouds on fire with redness,  
Burned the broad sky, like a prairie;  
Left upon the level water  
One long track and trail of splendor.  
And our spirits, strong, renewed,  
Felt tomorrow's tasks grow lighter,  
Felt the grandeur of the outdoors.

Dr. Warren Keck then led us,  
Taught ornithology at Coe;  
Presently an honorary member;  
Brought a gallinule to meeting;  
Helped us with the annual census,  
With the I.O.U. convention;  
Helped display in downtown windows  
Natural habitats with birds.

Then came Earnest, Earnest Steffen,  
Skillful artist of the bird world;  
Painted prairie birds and mountain,  
Painted birds of shore and woodland  
Exhibited in halls of art;  
Painted warblers in his dooryard,  
"Jewels of the Sun," he called them,  
And delighted many a listener  
With his tales of how he learned them,  
And delighted many a reader  
With Iowa Bird Life illustration.

Many other friends soon joined us:  
Ruth, Iola, Margaret, Steve,  
Bob and Jean, and the Barlons,  
Dr. Ennis, Emma, Jim,  
Dr. Goellner, and the Brunners,  
Schuknechts, Pikes, Lucile, Lorene,  
Hazel, Eleanor, Alice, Evelyn,  
Louisa, and the Laudes and Kents.

Much has been accomplished  
By our club throughout the years:  
Planted cedars in Van Vechten  
Exhibited birds at flower shows,  
Hiked with Scout and Campfire groups,  
Kept a bird migration record;  
Scattered grain in Cedar Lake,  
Built nest-boxes for the Bluebirds  
And for Wood Ducks at Amana;  
Protested clearing city woodlands,  
Protested hunting of our doves  
And adorning women's hats  
With the plumage of wild birds;  
Sponsored I.O.U. conventions,  
Sponsored Audubon Screen Tours,  
Sent a Christmas C A R E to Finland,  
Gave financial aid to establish  
Audubon Camp of Wisconsin;  
Paid tuition to inspire  
A student at California Camp.  
Who shall say what thoughts and visions  
Fill the fiery brains of young men?  
Armed with cameras and guide books,  
Binoculars and telescopes,  
Fred and Tom Kent, Pete, and Bob,  
Led us forth to take the census.  
Then began the greatest battle  
That the sun had ever looked on,  
That the war birds ever witnessed.  
All a summer's day it lasted,  
From the sunrise to past sunset.  
Running, looking, listening, counting  
All the birds for many miles,  
All the birds within our region  
For recording in their files.  
Counted White-throats, hawks and warblers,  
Counted goose and cormorant wedge,  
Saw the King Rail and the bittern  
At the cattailed marsh's edge;  
Saw the plover, Golden Plover,  
Saw the Herring Gull and wren,  
Noted hummingbird and Mallard,  
Heard the Whip-poor-will, and then  
In the darkness settling 'round us,  
All the birders cried, "Hooray!"  
Throbbled and shouted and exulted,  
"We've observed a hundred species,  
A successful Century Day!"  
Kindly have you been and patient;  
Just one thing more have I to say:  
Thirty delightful years have ended  
In a happy, peaceful way;  
That this peace may last forever,  
And our hands be clasped more closely,  
And our hearts be more united,  
Is my prayer for our bird club.

—C. ESTHER COPP